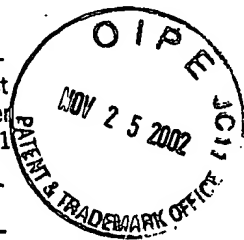


**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

on Nov 08, 20 02  
 STAAS & HALSEY  
 By: [Signature]  
 Date: Nov 14, 2002



Docket No.: 826.1517

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 12/3/02

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of:

Minoru KURIKI, et al.

Serial No. 09/189,410

Group Art Unit: 2154

Confirmation No. 5479

Filed: November 10, 1998

Examiner: A. Caldwell

For: MESSAGE PROCESSING DEVICE, MESSAGE MANAGEMENT METHOD AND STORAGE MEDIUM FOR STORING MESSAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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 Technology Center 2100

**AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed July 16, 2002, and having a period for response set to expire on October 16, 2002. A Petition for a one-month extension of time, together with the requisite fee for same, is submitted herewith, thereby extending the period for response to Saturday November 16, 2002.

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please CANCEL claim 10.

Please AMEND and ADD to the claims as follows:

1. (AS THREE TIMES AMENDED) A message processing apparatus connected to a plurality of terminal apparatuses via a network, comprising:  
 a preparation unit preparing a receiver state list containing names of a plurality of receivers, each receiver having received an interpersonal message relating to a business activity, the receiver state list also containing individual states of each of the respective receivers, each individual state being mutually associated with the name of a corresponding receiver, where each individual state of each receiver indicates a status of that receiver's activity regarding the business activity, and where the indicating is based on responses received from

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